

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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United States Senate	
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510	
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15 AUTH.	April 21, 1978
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
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The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Cy:

Regarding the proposed sale of F-15's to Saudi Arabia, a State Department spokesman was quoted as saying that the United States is not aware that the Saudis are planning to acquire advanced aircraft beyond the currently proposed F-15's and that the U. S. government "has no plans to sell additional aircraft."

In view of the remarks of Air Force Secretary, John Stetson, I would like to know whether there have been discussions of any kind with the Saudis regarding additional aircraft. If there has been, what assurances are there that the Saudis will not eventually request additional planes?

Administration officials recently have said that the French at one time thought they were close to obtaining a letter of intent from the Saudis to buy new French Mirages. I would appreciate knowing the time frame of these French-Saudi discussions and if it is known how many planes were discussed. If the F-15 sale is approved, what assurances are there that the Saudis may not buy French aircraft anyway, either to be flown by themselves or other pilots for their own air force or other Arab air forces? How many aircraft is Saudi Arabia helping to purchase for other nations in the Middle East and what is the status of discussions on future possible sales, particularly with the French and British?

Also, I would like to know if there are any contractual inhibitions against the use of planes financed by the Saudis for other air forces for the defense of Saudi Arabia itself.

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Additionally, in preparation for the forthcoming hearings, I would like to know the status of the proposals to rebuild Egyptian MIGs and whether there have been any MIG engines furnished to Egypt since October 1973.

In view of the Administration's intention to submit the letters of offer on April 26, I will greatly appreciate a speedy response to these preliminary questions.

Sincerely,



Clifford P. Case
U. S. Senator

CPC:kpp